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NPIC/TSSG/RED-1804-69  
16 September 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT : Discussions with Post Office Personnel Regarding R&D Efforts

ATTENDEES:

1. On 19 August the above personnel met with the purpose of determining the applicability of the R&D being performed in the Post Office to Center problems. It was, in essence, a one-way discussion since lack of clearances inhibited specific statement of our problems or R&D efforts. However, the past COMIREX background of [ ] made the discussion much more meaningful than normally under these circumstances.

2. [ ] generally described their R&D effort which is at about a 30 million dollar per year level. It became evident that certain of their present activity could be germane to certain of our automation problems in the areas of information storage, sorting, retrieval and transmission. For example, a good part of their effort is going into minimizing the number of times a letter must be handled. Here they have developed equipment which utilizes optical test recognition techniques to automate sorting mail (typed not script). Obviously there is nothing technically sophisticated about this, but it behooves us to look at their particular technique since it must be an economical solution if it is to be accepted for universal Post Office use. [ ] has built the unit which is presently undergoing tests and more advanced systems are already under contract. The possible application of this technique for NPIC is in the area of titling or coding images for automatic recall. It should be mentioned that our equipment could be much less complicated than theirs since we can standardize the coding or titling.

3. Another interesting program is their fluidics effort (movement of material by air flow). Time did not permit going into detail on their effort, but the majority of their work is being performed in their own lab. The application for Center use is transmission of imagery about the Center in an expedited manner without paying the computer prices of having the imagery in a digital format.

Declass Review by  
NIMA/DOD

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4. The general concensus was that this meeting established valuable contacts and defined the areas of interest for future discussions. R&D personnel will make arrangements to talk in depth on these subjects with the individual project monitors and visit pertinent contractors.

Chief, Research & Engineering Division,  
TSSG

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